

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [News Releases](#) » College of Pharmacy Installs Nanobiotechnology Expert Peixuan Guo as First Sylvan G. Frank Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Systems

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College of Pharmacy Installs Nanobiotechnology Expert Peixuan Guo as First Sylvan G. Frank Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Systems

07/26/2016

The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy installed Peixuan Guo, PhD as its first ever Sylvan G. Frank Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Systems at a July 26 ceremony at the university's Faculty Club.

Presiding over the event was President Michael V. Drake, Provost Bruce McPherson, Executive Vice President of Health Sciences Sheldon M. Retchin, and Dean and Professor Henry J. Mann.



Guo, one of the top nanobiotechnology experts in the world, joined the college in January. He was recruited in collaboration with Ohio State's Dorothy M. Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute (DHLRI) and holds a joint appointment in the College of Medicine's Department of Physiology & Cell Biology.

"We are excited and honored to have Dr. Peixuan Guo join our faculty," said Dean Mann. "His addition as a named chair pays proper tribute to the strong contributions of Dr. Sylvan Frank and the historic importance of innovation and drug development at our college. We look forward to significant new discoveries by Dr. Guo at The Ohio State University."

Guo's focus on nanobiotechnology has opened doors to new discoveries. He constructed the first viral DNA packaging motor in vitro; discovered phi29 motor pRNA; assembled infectious dsDNA; discovered pRNA hexamer; and pioneered RNA nanotechnology.

The Sylvan G. Frank Chair is funded by a \$2.5 million endowment given to the college by alumnus Chih-Ming Chen (PhD '81), and his wife, Virginia. The gift is the largest in college history. It honors Sylvan Frank, former professor of Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and associate dean for Professional Programs, who retired in June 2013 as professor emeritus after 43 years with the college.

"It is my greatest pleasure to donate this chair in honor of Professor Sylvan G. Frank, said Chen. "He is my mentor and former PhD adviser at the College of Pharmacy. Without the teaching assistantship from the college and the research

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assistantship from Dr. Frank, I would not have been able to come to the United States, to study and get my PhD and land my first job there. Most important, I would not have achieved the American Dream...It is my hope that this chair will continue the legacy of Professor Frank and his passion to improve drug delivery systems in the years to come.”

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